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Page 1, between lines 1 and 3, insert the following heading:

-- BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION --.

Page 1, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

The invention is based on a method for compressing data[, as generically defined by the preamble to the main claim]. In the run-length encoding method (RLE method), a method for data compression is already known in which no data loss occurs. This method is used for example with so-called PCX data. The aim of the method is to combine repeating data elements and to store them along with the number of repetitions. If the data elements are bytes made up of eight bits, then the compression occurs in such a way that bytes up to a value of 63 which do not repeat are stored uncompressed; the two highest bits must have the value 0. Bytes with a value between 64 and 255, as well as bytes between zero and 63 which repeat, are stored encoded in a data element made up of two bytes. In the first byte in this instance, the highest two bits are set equal to one. The subsequent bits indicate the repetition factor for the second byte. In this method, it is disadvantageous that for individual bytes with a value between 64 and 255, the storage space requirement is doubled. In an unfavorable

case, compression using the RLE method can result in the required storage space being greater after compression than before compression. Also known for a data compression is the Lempel-Ziv algorithm, in which a data sequence to be compressed is tested for repetitions of partial sequences, repeating elements are stored in a code table, and the partial sequences are replaced by an assigned code symbol. A table of an unknown size must be set up for the decompression.

Page 1, between lines 20 and 25, amend the heading "Advantages of the Invention" to -- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --.

Amend the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 as follows:

The method according to the invention[, with the features of the main claim], has the advantage over the prior art that the information as to whether a data element is stored in a compressed or uncompressed form is stored in another additional data element. This makes it possible to use the compression method according to the invention for all data elements, independent of their value, since no additional compression information must be contained in the individual data elements themselves. It is also advantageous to embody the compression as dependent upon preceding

and subsequent data elements, since this permits a particularly effective compression.

Page 2, amend the first full paragraph on page 2 as follows:

[Advantageous modifications and improvements of the method disclosed in the main claim our possible by means of the steps taken in the dependent claims.] It is particularly advantageous that multiple identical data elements that repeat in sequence with one another are counted and stored with a repetition factor in the manner according to the invention. The repetition factor can then assume a maximal value of the data element since the information as to whether the data element is stored in a compressed or uncompressed form is stored in a different data element. It is also advantageous to store the compressed or uncompressed data elements in a storage region provided for this and to store the data element, which contains the information as to which data elements have been stored in a compressed or uncompressed form, in a different storage region since this storage permits an effective access to the data elements. With sequences of data elements which exceed a predeterminable size, it is also advantageous to execute a storage in different data packets. As a result, even graphics which require a great deal of storage space can be broken

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down into data packets whose size, for example, is optimally adapted to the sector size of a data storage medium or the data packet size is adapted for transmission via an interface or via the Internet, e.g. via e-mail.

Page 4, line 11, change the heading "Drawings" to -- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS --.

Page 4, line 30, change the heading "Description of the Exemplary Embodiment" to -- DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS --.

Amended page 1 first paragraph:

The invention is based on a method for compressing data. In the run-length encoding method (RLE method), a method for data compression is already known in which no data loss occurs. This method is used for example with so-called PCX data. The aim of the method is to combine repeating data elements and to store them along with the number of repetitions. If the data elements are bytes made up of eight bits, then the compression occurs in such a way that bytes up to a value of 63 which do not repeat are stored uncompressed; the two highest bits must have the value 0. Bytes with a value between 64 and 255, as well as bytes between zero and 63 which repeat, are stored encoded in a data element made up of two bytes. In the first byte in this instance, the highest two bits are set equal to one. The subsequent bits indicate the repetition factor for the second byte. In this method, it is disadvantageous that for individual bytes with a value between 64 and 255, the storage space requirement is doubled. In an unfavorable case, compression using the RLE method can result in the required storage space being greater after compression than before compression. Also known for a data compression is the Lempel-Ziv algorithm, in which a data sequence to be compressed is tested for repetitions of partial sequences, repeating elements are stored in a code

table, and the partial sequences are replaced by an assigned code symbol. A table of an unknown size must be set up for the decompression.

Amended paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 as follows:

The method according to the invention, has the advantage over the prior art that the information as to whether a data element is stored in a compressed or uncompressed form is stored in another additional data element. This makes it possible to use the compression method according to the invention for all data elements, independent of their value, since no additional compression information must be contained in the individual data elements themselves. It is also advantageous to embody the compression as dependent upon preceding and subsequent data elements, since this permits a particularly effective compression.

Amended page 2, first full paragraph:

It is particularly advantageous that multiple identical data elements that repeat in sequence with one another are counted and stored with a repetition factor in the manner according to the invention. The repetition factor can then assume a maximal value of the data element since

the information as to whether the data element is stored in a compressed or uncompressed form is stored in a different data element. It is also advantageous to store the compressed or uncompressed data elements in a storage region provided for this and to store the data element, which contains the information as to which data elements have been stored in a compressed or uncompressed form, in a different storage region since this storage permits an effective access to the data elements. With sequences of data elements which exceed a predeterminable size, it is also advantageous to execute a storage in different data packets. As a result, even graphics which require a great deal of storage space can be broken down into data packets whose size, for example, is optimally adapted to the sector size of a data storage medium or the data packet size is adapted for transmission via an interface or via the Internet, e.g. via e-mail.